

such certificate shall be filed with the questionnaire and the registrant shall be placed in class V, on the ground that he is in the military or naval service of the United States."

As the Navy is still urgently in need of medical officers to answer the constantly increasing calls for sea and shore duty, particular attention is hereby called to the fact that registrants can present themselves for examination and accept commissions in the Navy regardless of their classification and order number, that the Navy is urgently in need of men, and that candidates found qualified will be assigned to immediate active duty if so desired.

Those candidates found qualified for enrollment and serving as interns will be, as far as practicable, left untouched in order to complete such course of internship. No definite assurance, however, can be given, as this action will necessarily largely depend upon the number of older men enrolled.

Applicants are requested to communicate with, or apply to, Dr. U. R. Webb, Senior Medical Examiner, U. S. Naval Hospital, Mare Island, California.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

It is a pleasure to note that the monthly bulletin of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States for January, 1918, quotes in full the editorial entitled "A Bad Situation" which appeared in the December issue of the Journal.

In France and Germany the pharmaceutical corps is a necessary adjunct to the Medical Corps, and it is just as necessary to have qualified pharmacists in our own Army. The medical corps needs trained pharmacists. The soldier is entitled to the same protection against ignorant and careless dispensers that is afforded to civilians by the Pharmacy Laws.

You will remember an editorial published in the Journal of the American Medical Association as follows: "Today, as never before, victory in war goes to the nation that most effectively conserves the health of its fighting men. The physician is now of such military importance that the medical profession will be called on to make no inconsiderable sacrifices. It will materially lighten the arduous and responsibilities of the physician to have in the Army trained pharmacists who will be able to give intelligent cooperation. But it is imposing too great a strain on the patriotism of those whose special knowledge is obviously a large asset to the Army, to expect them to enlist as privates without any recognition of their national worth. Pharmacists should be given a rank commensurate with their importance, first because it is but simple justice to the pharmacists themselves, secondly, because the usefulness of the medical corps will be greatly augmented, and, lastly, and most important, because the efficiency of our Army demands it."

Any one in the Army Medical Service is now permitted to dispense drugs and medicines after he has been given a brief instruction in pharmacy, but the pharmacists who have served their time at home in studying, securing drug store experience

and passing the State Board examination are not recognized by the United States Army as pharmacists. The medical profession should support the Edmonds Bill (H. R. 5531) for the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps.

In the new Journal of Psycho-Biology for September, 1917 (p. 141), K. S. Lashley records some interesting experiments on white rats with reference to the effects of strychnine and caffeine on habit formation. He finds that small doses of strychnine are without effect on the rate of habit formation, while doses large enough to produce tremor and incoordination accelerated learning. Caffeine in moderate and large doses, retards learning in direct proportion to the size of dose. Strychnine in large doses increases accuracy of performance of a perfected established habit. Large doses of caffeine caused more activity and reduced the accuracy of performance. Such data on elementary psychological responses to drug action are of particular value with those drugs which are, or may be, used for psychic stimulants.

The fight against tuberculosis has graduated from the moving-picture house and is about to appear in this country on the legitimate stage with Robert Edson, of "Little Minister" and "Strongheart" fame, in the leading role. The play, entitled "Love Forbidden," is by Jacques Renaud and has had a seven-months' run in Paris. While this play is a pathologic drama like "Damaged Goods," which enjoyed such a phenomenal run a few years ago, it is declared by critics to be much more appealing and interesting as a piece of dramatic workmanship. It has been officially approved by the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, which pronounces it a powerful agent for promoting the education of the public as to the menace of the great white plague and the methods of combating it.

It is astonishing how many manuscripts are received in which the verb "to operate" is employed as a transitive verb. Such use is incorrect and jars on the ear of good usage. The surgeon "operates upon the patient," but never, unless he is poorly lettered, "operates the patient." Moreover, the patient in the hands of the good surgeon should not "be operated," but should "be operated upon."

The special article in this issue by Dr. Gallwey brings up a matter of considerable importance and one which has not received the emphasis it deserves. This is the proper tabulation and record of the results of physical examinations under the draft law. Such results will be of real value, and proper means should be utilized in the coming examinations to make them full and reliable.

Oleomargarine is a worthy substitute for butter if a good brand is secured and it is fresh. It has nearly the same calorific value, is not unpleasant in taste, and costs about two-thirds as much as butter. It may not have the same vitamin content, but this is not a matter of importance in the ordinary dietary.